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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Steven G. Fry, Shantanu Sarkar
Assignee: Cisco Technology, Inc.
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS SUPPORTING NETWORK
COMMUNICATIONS THROUGH A FIREWALL
Serial No.: 09/456,692 Filed: December 9, 1999
Examiner: Carl G. Colin Group Art Unit: 2136
Docket No.: CIS0044US

Austin, Texas
April 30, 2004

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Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2100

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action dated March 11, 2004, having a shortened statutory period expiring on June 11, 2004. Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks set forth below.

Amendments to the Specification. No Amendments to the Specification are presented in this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 23 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 24 of this paper.